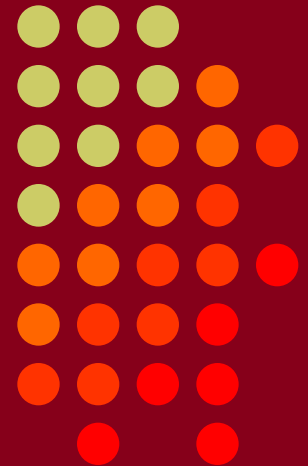


# CTU Presents

## Fair Play – How to Earn and Keep Respect, K4RO

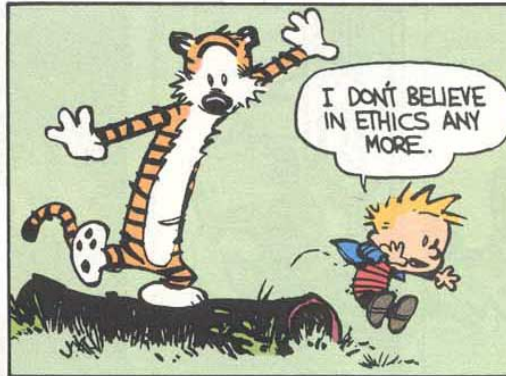


• CTU •  
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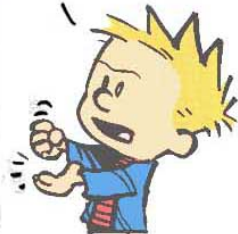
ICOM®

# calvin and Hobbes

by WATTERSON



GET WHAT YOU CAN WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD - THAT'S WHAT *I* SAY! MIGHT MAKES RIGHT! THE WINNERS WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS!



# Purpose of this Session



- Discussion of what ethical behavior is in radio contesting
- Understand the impact of unethical behavior, and some of the motivations behind it
- Encourage participants to take ownership of their own behavior and encourage others to do the same



# Who are We?



- K4RO check 76. Formerly WB3FAX
  - QSYed to W4 in 1980
  - First contest entry 1994 – Late to the game
  - Enthralled with the magic of radio
  - Hopelessly hooked on contesting game
  - Grateful to the contesting community
- 
- Audience contesting experience?

# Acknowledgments



- This presentation draws on material developed by Ken Adams, K5KA (SK), Randy Thompson, K5ZD, Doug Grant K1DG, Larry Tyree N6TR, Dave McCarty K5GN and Ward Silver N0AX.
- Grateful to be standing on the shoulders of giants

# Why do we play games?



- What is a game?
  - A contest with rules to determine a winner
  - An amusement, pastime, entertainment
- Games provide players with
  - A means of exploring one's own capabilities
  - An opportunity to look at, understand, and experience things
  - Lessons about themselves and possibly the world.

# An unusual game



- Entrants keep their own score
- Complex rules govern scoring
- Individuals and “team” entries permitted
- Some events include off-times
- Winners of the top-level event often invest \$50k or more and travel to favorable locations
- An on-line network helps participants increase their scores
- Spectators don’t find it particularly interesting

# Is this Radio Contesting?





# Why do we do games?



- FUN and EXCITEMENT!!!
  - Self Improvement
  - Personal Satisfaction
  - Financial Rewards
- Internal
- Peer Recognition
- External

# Why do we do radio contests?



- FUN and EXCITEMENT!!
  - Self Improvement
  - Personal Satisfaction
  - ~~Financial Rewards~~
- Internal
- 
- Peer Recognition
- External

# Ethics in Contesting



- Unobservable rules require participants to choose right or wrong on their own.
- Ethics are in play particularly when no one is looking. We are free to choose.
- The freedom to choose right or wrong carries both responsibility and scrutiny.

# What do we mean ... Ethics?



- Ethics denote the theory of right and wrong actions
- Ethics in practice is knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing to do what is right.
- N0AX refers to our “Good Arrow.” We know which way it points. Our ethics begin here.
- We also know where it doesn’t point (narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism.)

# Ethics and Respect



- Ethical behavior requires ***respect***...
- Respect for ***others***
- Respect for ***the game***
- Respect for ***yourself***
- Our fellow competitors want the same respect that we want for ourselves (Golden Rule principle)

# Ethics and Respect



- Ethical behavior requires ***respect***...
- Respect for ***others***
- Respect for ***the game***
- Respect for ***yourself***
- To ***get*** respect, you have to ***give*** respect

# Why do ethics matter?



**Without ethics and respect –  
we have NOTHING  
( N0AX 2015 )**



# Motivations for Cheating



- Desire to be a “hero” on the field of competition (ancient, unconscious)
- Achieve immortality via community legend, fame, and lasting peer recognition
- Seeking current community “stardom”
- Prove superiority over others (sibling rivalry)
- A means to prove self-worth
- *Powerful forces, worthy of study and caution*



# Rationalizations for Cheating



- *Everybody is doing it (#1 Reason)*
- Nobody was hurt (*Except those cheated*)
- Nobody was watching (*Not any longer*)
- Large investments in QTH & station
- Overcome unfair disadvantages
- Rules don't specifically disallow a practice
- Rules apply to others, not us

# “All the guys at the top are cheating”



- No, they are not
  - There are a few bad apples – this is true in any sport
  - They usually don't last long
- This belief is the primary reason for cheating - in virtually every sport studied! It's mostly an illusion!
- This mindset is a contagious malady – don't let it get a foothold

# **“I’m not a big gun...it doesn’t matter if I cut corners a bit”**



- **Yes it does!**
- Bad habits early on become seriously bad habits later
- Your reputation is established early
- Dealing with temptation is hard...“It’s easy to just give in! And it keeps getting easier.”
- Start off right, and it will pay big rewards later

# What is this peer recognition?



- We are recognized by our achievements and how we went about achieving those results
- Our recognition is influenced by what other people say about us
- We all need peer recognition (external) more than we may realize
- The classical “hero” myth lives in our psyche. We rightfully cheer those who win fairly.

# Negative Peer Recognition Examples



- That station was too loud in the NAQP
- That guy uses a pair of 8877s and has remote receivers in Europe
- Joe uses spots but enters as unassisted
- Dim padded his log with bogus QSOs
- Larry operated with a broad signal to push away nearby stations and keep his channel clear.

**While most of these examples can not be proven – they are often based upon something not being quite right about a log entry.**

# How do we know what to do?



- Written Rules
  - Specified by the contest sponsor in writing
  - Black and white
  - May, can, should, must...
- Unwritten Rules
  - Expectations about behavior
  - Interpreted norms
  - Gray areas – Ethical behavior required

# Some written rules are very clear (some people break these anyway)



- **“A. Single Operator categories:** For all single operator categories, only one person (the operator) can contribute to the final score during the official contest period.”
- “Total output power per band must not exceed 1500 watts or the output power regulations of the country in which the entrant is operating, whichever is less.”

# Excessive Power



- Do not exceed power limits for your category
- Just because the knobs go to 11...
- Applies to ALL power categories





# Essence of Unwritten Rules



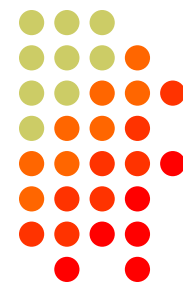
- Just because it's not specifically prohibited by written rules doesn't mean you should do it!
- Keep the contest on the radio and within the contest period – no log washing or padding!
- Don't give or take unfair advantage of others
- Learn and follow the spirit of the rules

# Examples of Unwritten “Rules”



- **Do not** make pre-arranged schedules
- **Do** identify frequently
- **Do not** ask friends to work you ... only
- **Do** encourage club members to work everyone
- **Do not** work friends with multiple calls
- **Do** work and spot stations equally

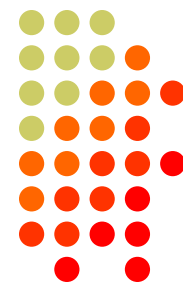
# Examples of Unwritten “Rules”



- **Do not** telephone or text message multipliers
- **Do** make an effort to help casual callers enjoy the contest and make a contact
- **Do not** let others “help” your single-op effort
- **Do not** plop down 100 Hertz away from your competitor to intentionally disrupt their run

See the ARRL’s *“HF Contesting - Good Practices, Interpretations & Suggestions”*

# No “Log Washing”



- Using QRZ.com, spot history, 3830 reports, LoTW, club databases
- Using utilities to analyze and correct the log
- Replaying the contest to change the log
- Asking others who they worked or if a call sign is correct
- “Fixing” off times or band changes
- It’s **over** when the 2359 rolls over to 0000

# Technology - A Game Changer



- With more technology comes more ways to cheat... and more ways to detect cheating..
- Remote operations - Specify transmitter QTH unambiguously. Adhere to RX distance rules.
- Crowd sourcing – CQWW 2014 CW – egregious cheating found through community effort. World high TO7A DQed – previous years also DQed!
- Few places left to hide with SDR, RBN, etc.
- Ethics becomes more important than ever as technology marches onward

# Honor Code



- You are responsible for your own reputation
  - Follow the rules!
  - Don't participate with people who cheat – you will be known by the company you keep
- Lead by example
  - You never know who is listening or watching
  - Don't do anything you would not want to be made public
- Be vocal
  - Confront cheating when you see it
  - Every incident is an opportunity to teach proper behavior

# Peer Pressure



- Social pressure by members of one's peer group to take a certain action, adopt certain values, or otherwise conform in order to be accepted.
- Good
  - Encourage others to follow the rules
  - People respect those who are true to their beliefs
- Bad
  - Letting others influence you into not doing the right thing
  - “everyone else is doing it.”

# Applying Positive Peer Pressure



- Be aware of your motives
  - Is it personal?
  - If necessary, enlist others to help deliver the message
- Give the benefit of the doubt
  - They may not realize what they are doing is against the rules
  - Take the opportunity to encourage taking the right path
- Choose the right time and place
  - Can they listen without feeling attacked?
- Don't be angry, accusatory, or judgmental
  - Treat the issue as a mistake, not a crime
  - Focus on actions, not character
- Be there
  - People cheat because they see others get away with it
  - Not confronting the problem hurts everyone



# Communication Success is Defined by the Receiver



THE FAR SIDE/GARY LARSON

*What we say to dogs*



*What they hear*

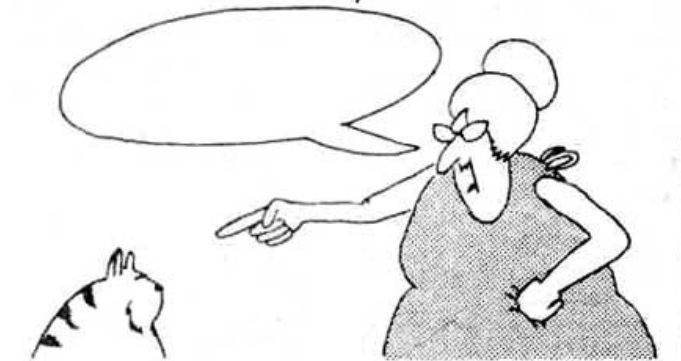


THE FAR SIDE/GARY LARSON

*What we say to cats... 12-14*



*What they hear*



# Scenario 1



- We discover a local tester uses cluster spotting and enters an unassisted category. What do we do?
  - They never win anything so assume it doesn't matter
  - Avoid speaking to them ever again
  - Publicly call them a cheater at the next club meeting
  - Send a letter to the contest sponsor
  - Call them up and ask if they are aware of the rules about using spotting information

# Scenario 2



- We are invited to a multi-op and upon arrival, we discover they are running 2.5 kW. What do we do?
  - We are there, loud is good, operate anyway
  - Turn the power down to 1500 W when we're operating
  - Loudly encourage the other ops to follow our example
  - Quietly ask the owner if he always runs excess power
  - Leave (hard to do if thousands of miles from home)
  - Send a note to the contest sponsor and FCC

# Scenario 3



- A local contester has key clicks that wipe out large chunks of the band. What do you do?
  - Sharpen up YOUR keying and give him a dose of his own medicine!
  - Send “KLIX” on his frequency anonymously
  - Call him, tell him he has key clicks, and sign your call
  - Contact him after the contest, explain the problem, and ask to help fix the problem
  - Notify the contest sponsor and his rig’s manufacturer

# The Contest Code of Ethics

## [www.wwrof.org](http://www.wwrof.org)



1. I will learn and obey the rules of any contest I enter, including the rules of my entry category.
2. I will obey the rules for amateur radio in my country.
3. I will not modify my log after the contest by using additional data sources to correct call sign/exchange errors.
4. I will accept the judging and scoring decisions of the contest sponsor as final.
5. I will adhere to the DX Code of Conduct in my operating style (see [dx-code.org](http://dx-code.org)).
6. I will yield my frequency to any emergency communications activity.
7. I will operate my transmitter with sufficient signal quality to minimize interference to others.

# The RIGHT Way – It's Not Hard



- Play Fair!
  - Obey the rules, respect your fellow competitors
- Try to do better next time
  - Improve your skills, station, and strategies
- Make your enjoyment of contesting be about the journey, not the destination. Set goals, and enjoy achieving them ethically.

# Who is the final judge ?



- The person in the mirror



- Your peers

“Yeah, I know that guy. He cheats.”

*- Anonymous Contester*

- We learned it in grade school – just follow the Golden Rule.